



## **Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

*— Making a positive difference through education and service —*

**TO:** School Administrators

**FROM:** D. Kent King

**DATE:** August 20, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics, and Computing  
Procedures and Administration

The Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics, and Computing began operations in August 2000 with students from throughout the State of Missouri. This program, administered by Northwest Missouri State University, receives its primary financial support through Mission Enhancement Funding from the Department of Higher Education. The Academy's two-year residential program takes the place of a student's junior and senior years of high school. Students completing this program receive an Associate of Science degree and a high school diploma, simultaneously.

Four main areas of interest to superintendents, high school principals and other administrators relating to the Academy will be addressed below: the high school diploma, finances, statistical reports, and transition of students to and from the Academy.

### **High School Diploma**

The granting of a high school diploma to students who attend the Missouri Academy will be administered in one of two ways.

- If the sending high school keeps the student on its rolls, state and local graduation requirements are waived; and the student will receive a high school diploma from the sending school when the student satisfactorily completes the core curriculum of the Missouri Academy. It should be noted that the granting of a diploma is not the same as granting a student permission to "walk at graduation." The determination of a student's participation in a graduation ceremony will be at the discretion of the sending high school.
- If the sending high school opts not to keep the student on its rolls, the student has no ties to the sending school; and she/he will not be eligible to receive a diploma from the sending school. Under this set of circumstances, the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing will grant the student a high school diploma when she/he satisfactorily completes the Missouri Academy core curriculum.

## **Finances**

- The Missouri Academy budget is partially based on funding from the State of Missouri through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- If the sending school opts to keep the student on its rolls, it will be billed 85% of the district's average amount per weighted average daily attendance from the state foundation formula. The district will retain 15% of the average amount per weighted average daily attendance from the state foundation formula. Proposition C funds (one cent sales tax) will remain with the sending school. The sending school district will be billed by the Missouri Academy twice during the school year. The first bill will be for one-half of the total of the state aid. The second bill will be for one-half of the total state aid adjusted for student attendance at the Academy. The sending school will be notified regarding the attendance of each student with the second bill. The sending school will also count this student in its enrollment statistics and, thus, will be financially reimbursed for a student attending the Missouri Academy at the same rate as other students in that district.
- If the sending school opts not to keep the student on its rolls, the sending high school will not claim this student for financial reimbursement.

## **Statistical Reports**

- If the sending high school keeps the student on its rolls, the sending school will include the standardized test scores (ACT and SAT), MAP scores, end-of-course scores, etc., in the school's statistical reports to the Department.
- If the sending high school opts not to keep the student on its rolls, and, instead, transfers her/him to the Missouri Academy, the sending school will not include the student's test scores (ACT and SAT), MAP scores, end-of-course scores, etc., in its statistical reports to the Department.
- If the sending school transfers the student to the Missouri Academy, the sending school will not count that student when student enrollments are reported.

## **Transition of Students To and From the Academy**

- When a student is accepted by the Missouri Academy and enrolls in its programs, the Missouri Academy will notify each sending school district. The sending school district will make the decision whether or not to keep the student on its rolls for reporting purposes.
- If a student decides to leave the Missouri Academy, that student is eligible to return to the sending school district. The academic work completed will transfer from the Missouri Academy to the high school. This is similar to what occurs when a student moves from one high school district to another. The Missouri Academy will inform the school as to the course work completed and grades received at the time of the transfer.

If you have questions regarding the above, please contact Gerri Ogle at 573-751-2587 or Roger Dorson at 573-751-0357.